(f) The steps taken to abate air pollution include:

- Notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
- Identification of sources of pollution;
- Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for vehicles at manufacturing stage;
- Introduction of cleaner fuels and improved vehicular technologies;
- Implementation of Auto Fuel Policy;
- Use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants; and
- Regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

Adverse effect of global warming on Himalayan Glacier

†1324. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himalayas are melting due to adverse effect being caused due to global warming;

(b) whether it is also a fact that recent flood witnessed Sutlej river is an example of the same;

(c) if so, whether Government have conducted any study, so far, regarding such a situation to find out changes taking place at Himalayas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps Government contemplate in this regard in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The studies carried out by Geological Survey of India have revealed that the majority of Himalayan glaciers are passing through a phase of recession, which is a worldwide phenomenon. The recession of glaciers is a part of the natural cyclic process of changes in size and other attributes of the glaciers. These changes could be attributed to various reasons including global warming.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the recent flood in Sutlej was caused by the breach of the artificial lake formed in the Pareechhu river, a tributary of the Spiti-Satluj, located in Chinese territory.

(c) to (e) In order to develop proper understanding of glaciers, the Government has commissioned a few studies, including a comprehensive programme on the inventory of glaciers, fluctuations in their sizes and mass balance.

Environmental clearance to Maharashtra Government proposal

1325. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minsiter of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashra had submitted a proposal to Poshir Dam for environmental clearance in September, 1996;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the compliances of various remarks by the Central Government were also submitted at various stages; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearance to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Poshir dam project was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for environmental clearance in July 1996.

(b) No, Sir. The proposal could not be granted environmental clearance due to non submission of forest clearance and survey report of flora and fauna in the project impact area.

(c) No fresh proposal complying with the statutory provisions under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 and its subsequent amendments has been received from the project authorities.

Cleaning of Yamuna river

†1326. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent by the Central Government during the last three years to clean Yamuna river;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.